

# MINUTES

of the

## PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

APRIL 23, 2015

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015 AT 6:02 P.M., WITH CHAIR MICHAEL B. WHITE PRESIDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016.

CHAIR WHITE: This public hearing of the County Council of Maui County will please come to order. Members, this evening we are open for testimony on our budget that we've been working on for a couple of weeks. Now and to begin with, let's, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the roll.

## ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS GLADYS C. BAISA, ROBERT CARROLL, ELEANORA COCHRAN, DONALD G. COUCH JR., S. STACY CRIVELLO, MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, VICE-CHAIR DONALD S. GUZMAN, AND CHAIR MICHAEL B. WHITE.

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBER G. RIKI HOKAMA.

There were approximately 50 members of the public in attendance.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK JOSIAH K. NISHITA: Mr. Chair, there are eight Members present and one Member excused. A quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And before we proceed, may I ask that all of you present please silence your cell phones or any other noise making devices that you've got. And I will check mine as well.

Mr. Clerk, has the, has this meeting been properly noticed?

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, the notice of public hearing on the Mayor's Proposed Budget and Capital Program was published in the April 7, 2015 and April 15, 2015 editions of the Maui News.

CHAIR WHITE: Members, this hearing has been properly noticed and without objections, we will proceed with public testimony.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Prior to that I would like to recognize a special group in the audience that was sitting in the front row behind Mr.'s. Guzman and Victorino. They are members of Pack 56, from the LDS Church here in Kahului and they're here earning their Citizenship Badge by taking part in a, a Council meeting, or public hearing.

And those that are here to earn their badges, and if you wouldn't mind standing as I call your name, first is Tevarua Wallace, pardon.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Not here.

MS. SANDI HANSON: He went to Oregon . . .

CHAIR WHITE: Oh, he did, okay. Dyllan Schnitzer, thank you Dyllan. Kachi Tuaoa, not here either, okay. Kainalu Villanueva, thank you. And Daitfin Rano, and Japheth Joaquin.

MS. HANSON: Excused.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, and Kingsley Min. Great, well thank you for joining.

Okay, with that Members, we are ready to start public testimony.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, in accordance with Section 9.4 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui, the public is invited to provide testimony before the Council regarding the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016, and Proposed Capital Program.

We have established limited telephone interactive communication that enables individuals from Hana, Lanai, and Molokai, to provide testimony from our District Offices. Individuals who wish to offer testify from Hana, Lanai, and Molokai, should now sign up with District Office staff.

Individuals who wish to offer testimony in the chamber, please sign up at the desk located in the eighth floor lobby, just outside the chamber door.

When testifying, please state your name and the name of any organization you represent.

Hana Office, please identify yourself and introduce your first testifier.

MS. DAWN LONO: Good evening. This is Dawn Lono at the Hana Council Office and there is no one waiting to testify.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Lanai Office, please identify yourself and introduce your first testifier.

MS. DENISE FERNANDEZ: Good evening, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez on Lanai and there is no one waiting to testify.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Molokai Office, please identify yourself and introduce your first testifier.

MS. ELLA ALCON: Good afternoon. This is Ella Alcon on Molokai and there is no one here waiting to testify.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you. Mr. Chair, we currently have 21 individuals who have signed up to testify in the Council chamber.

The first person to testify in the chamber is Jacques Arnoult. Mr. Arnoult will be followed by Raymond Andrade.

## TESTIMONY

MR. JACQUES ARNOULT:

Good evening, Councilmembers. And my name is Jacques Arnoult, and I am here on behalf of MEDB. And I am a senior right now at Baldwin High School and I'm also

the President of the Robotics Team. And without MEDB's support, we cannot do what we do. You know, we have, ever since I was a Freshman, we've participated in VEX and First Robotics.

For the past, you know, seven years MEDB has been continually funding both of our programs, each one has been \$5,000 each. And that has saved our costs immensely from doing many, many fundraisers and selling cookies and stuff. Also without their support we can't, like I said we can't do what we do. They cover our, a lot of our financial needs. Registration for our First Robotics events are \$5,000. To build just the robots itself is also another \$5,000. And to compete in one tournament is \$5,000. So that's a lot of money that we use and need to do what we do.

I'm also going to, going to be going off to college this year and I'll be in mechanical engineering. And I believe that through robotics and the support of MEDB that I have chosen this career that I want to go into and come back on Maui some day and continue to spread our knowledge of STEM and everything that we do here.

Also, I recently attended the STEM Conference which happened this past weekend. And I learned a great deal about all the different communities and groups that are out there that you can internship and that just support, and even one on Maui and other islands, such as Oahu and etc. And once again because of MEDB putting that on thousands of kids and, you know, all over the world, or over the islands can learn more about the STEM and careers in STEM because I believe that that's where we need to go for us to move forward as a State and our own County as well.

So, thank you for, thank you and for your time, and once again without the support of MEDB we cannot be doing what we do now. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Arnoult. Hold on just a second. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much for coming this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

(Councilmember Guzman was excused from the meeting at 6:10 p.m.)

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Raymond Andrade. He will be followed by Takuya Kuribayashi.

CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MR. RAYMOND ANDRADE:

Good evening, Council. My name is Raymond Andrade, I am from Baldwin High School and I'm speaking on behalf of MEDB. I have currently been in the Robotics

organization for four years, since I was in eighth grade. And I just have to say it really is a program unlike any other thing that's out there, any other club, organization cannot top the kind of creative thinking and involvement and teamwork that robotics does.

We currently participate in two competitions VEX and FRC. VEX runs all year round, every year they come up with a new game and we're challenged to figure out how to get the most points, or how to win the game, how to get over that obstacle. And it really teaches us critical thinking and building and creating with our minds.

Another competition we also compete in is the First Robotics Competition. That is a very expensive event. It's a very large scale, we usually CAD out our robots on softwares used on laptops. And, without the support of MEDB we couldn't do a lot of our travelling because here they don't have as much competitions for the FRC events. And we build 120 pound robots in six weeks. We have a limited timeframe. They give us a game, we have to figure out how we're going to play it and we have to build our robot and we have to ship it off. Once we get to competition, we're up against hundreds of other teams from all over the nation, all over the world, to compete for our title.

The Robotics Program really inspires young minds through STEM. We apply all aspects of it, science, technology, engineering, and math. We all put that in every single day that we come to Robotics. Every day we apply those four categories into making something that is amazing, something that makes people say, "Wow", you know. It's a real achievement and a lot of people don't realize it.

And MEDB is, we're very fortunate for their funding and the funding of the rest of our sponsors because without it, it would be fundraiser after fundraiser, and we'd be focused more on fundraiser than being able to actually do what we do. And that is we create robots, we create young minds, and inspire them.

I am not graduating this year, but I will be next year and I already have my plans to go to UH Manoa for mechanical engineering. If it hadn't been for the Robotics Program I really don't know where I would be in life, I don't know what direction I would choose. But mechanical engineering has inspired me, it shows me the great things that you can do when you really put your mind to it. So I really want to thank you County Council for your time and attention and thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Andrade. You make it sound like a lot of fun and very exciting. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you for coming tonight.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Takuya Kuribayashi. He will be followed by Kelly Pearson.

(Councilmember Guzman returned to the meeting at 6:13 p.m.)

MR. TAKUYA KURIBAYASHI:

Aloha. My name is Takuya Kuribayashi from Japan. I work for Hitachi and I'm working on the Japan/U.S. Collaboration Smart Grid Project called JUMPSmartMaui. We ask you to support funding to the Maui Economic Development Board. MEDB has provided very valuable guidance for our company and to our project in many ways since we established the project here in 2011 and continues to do it today.

The goal of our demonstration project is to integrate more renewable energy into the electrical grid using our smart grid technology and electric vehicles. It supports the County goals for reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel. This project is very special from other smart grid projects Hitachi has done. Maui Economic Development Board is very important because in this project because MEDB has a strong, positive relations in the community and our understanding of the various project to Maui energy challenges.

This project has been extended in 2017, the Japanese government has added to the original grant . . . making the total . . . to \$54 million for the project. With this additional funding, we are adding another phase to projects that will improve residents and businesses.

We launched an exhibition at Maui Energy Conference last month. Hitachi is now discussions with MEDB and ask us to develop structure for the business operation on Maui after the demonstration project is over.

This Smart Grid Demonstration Project and Maui, gaining a lot of publicity in Japan and other countries. We have already hosted people briefing 27 groups and 150 . . . customers and potential customers from Japan and Asian countries and the U.S. Mainland.

MEDB has helped us organization, presentation to many of those groups. MEDB's continuous support and strong relationships with residents is very important for us. Thank you for your attention. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Kuribayashi. We appreciate what Hitachi has done for Maui.

MR. KURIBAYASHI: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for coming this evening.

MR. KURIBAYASHI: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, the next person to testify is Kelly Pearson. Ms. Pearson will be followed by Kauai Fevella.

MS. KELLY PEARSON, BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MAUI:

Good evening, County Councilmembers. I am Kelly Pearson and for the first time in 17 years I get to say I'm the Chief Executive Officer for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui. I was so used to saying Director of Operations for a long time.

For the past weeks, I've had the opportunity to attend several budget hearings, not as much as you, and I didn't have to stay as late as you. But I, I really want to thank you for giving our young members an opportunity to speak before you and express their feelings about being a part of the Boys & Girls Clubs. Thank you so much for listening to our members, our staff, and parents, and tonight it's only me so, no kids, just me.

Last night you heard from our Makawao members, Amanda, Michael, and Neely. On Monday, Makana Naeole gave her speech in our beautiful Hawaiian language because she's a part of the Hawaiian Emersion Program and spends her afternoons at the Paukukalo Club. And she kind of talked about being a teenager in the small community hall that we're using.

You also got to hear Central Club, Grayson, who expressed how he will one day be a standup comedian. And that he appreciates the staff because they listen to his jokes. Our Central Club Youth of the Year, Sarina, told us about her aspirations to pursue a career in politics and I saw some of you go what. But yeah, that's what she said.

Last week in Lahaina, William our Keystone Club President told you that he aspires to be remembered for doing good in his community. And we had a young lady from Lahaina, she represented Lahaina, but she is actually from Molokai, and I didn't find out about that till after and she talked about how the Club was like her ohana.

And a couple weeks ago, our Haiku members spoke before you, Ty a fifth grader explained how the Club's staff is like an extended family to him, Uncles and Aunties that he can talk to.

You also heard from Sedona Estomo, who won our local competition for "Youth of the Year"; State competition and now she's off to represent the State of Hawaii in the regional "Youth of the Year" events.

So the common messages you heard was they do their homework, they have fun, and they depend a lot on their staff. That's just a small sample of what we do at Boys & Girls Clubs. So, tonight, while we're all asking you to continue to support us, we're asking you to fund us, I think it's just as important to reassure you that, that we do, we will do everything in our power to maximize your support.

And as the CEO of this organization, we, we are good stewards of your support. I, I think you invest in us because you entrust us to help to keep our community safe and healthy. And that's your job, and when you invest in us it's our job too. So I just wanted to say mahalo for all you do for the kids of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Thank you for being here.

Any questions for the testifier, Members. Seeing none, thank you for being here.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Kauai Fevella. She will be followed by Joseph Burger.

MS. KAUI FEVELLA:

Good evening, Councilmembers and Council Chair. My name is Kauai Fevella, and I'm here to ask you for your continued support of the Maui High Auto Shop Program. I've been in the automotive program for four years and within that time, I've earned seven credits and I also plan on making the automotive my career.

In September I will be going to WyoTech in Laramie, Wyoming and without this class I would have never even been interested in it.

The automotive program was the highlight of my high school experience and I feel very lucky that I had Mr. Rowe and Mr. Ishii as my instructors. To see this program go away without the funding that you guys give us, it would make me extremely sad because this program has highly impacted my life and I do have family members that's coming up in the program and I would really enjoy to see them have the same experience and opportunities that I have.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Fevella. Are you going to introduce your backup?



MS. FEVELLA: Oh, I'm sorry. That's Joey Burger, and then there's David Casayuran, and Joey Lee and Edgar Pollante.

CHAIR WHITE: Great, well thank you all for coming down this evening and sharing your thoughts.

Any questions, Member? Seeing none, thank you for coming.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Joseph Burger. He will be followed by David Casayuran.

MR. JOSEPH BURGER:

Hello, everyone. My name is Joseph Burger and I'd like to ask for your support for the Maui High Automotive Program. Throughout my four years in the Industrial Engineering Pathway, I've gained experience working on over 200 cars. Many of my friends and family rely on me to take care of their cars because of the knowledge I've gained in auto shop. Also I've been able to go to competitions and earn up to \$15,000 scholarships representing Maui High.

And, this Saturday, will, four of us here will be going to the Ford/AAA Competition. And we've been studying that for about two years. None of that would have been possible without the help of our instructors and that's why I'm asking for your support for the Maui High School Automotive, if not all high schools.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Joseph.

Members, any questions?

Ms. Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you. I'll be brief.

I can't resist, thank you very much. As a former Saber myself, I'm still a Saber. I'm very proud of the Maui High Auto Team. But I want to ask you, you know, we talked about this when we were looking at the budget this week. Do you get a lot of questions from people who go to other schools about why you have this program and they don't.

MR. BURGER: No, we don't really get those kind of questions. They just--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: We just wondered because we were talking about it ourselves. You know, we would like to expand it if we can, but it's not that easy. And Maui High has been outstanding and you have the teachers, and you have the facilities, and you seem to have it all together. I wondered if you take a lot of good natured teasing about people who say how come you guys have and we don't have. You don't hear that? Okay, thank you very much and all the best.

MR. BURGER: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Joseph.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is David Casayuran. He will be followed by Robert Pollock.

MR. DAVID CASAYURAN:

Good evening, Council and Council Chair. I'm here to talk about Maui High Auto Shop and I would like to ask for your continued support as well. I've been in the program for four years now and I would like to start out to say that I believe that we are the best program in the State of Hawaii. Not only just because of the skills, the things that we do for people, we provide services to people, but also our instructors. The time that they give, the time that they spend on us, the things that they teach. It's very, very rewarding.

And I've also had the experience to compete in contests and win the scholarship as well, along with my partner. And I'd like to say that this program has provided me with the direction in the future and that's why I came here to ask for your support. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much.

Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much, Mr. Casayuran.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Robert Pollock. He will be followed by Autumn Ness.

MR. ROBERT POLLOCK:

Hello, thank you for this opportunity. I'm Director and founder of Ebb & Flow Arts, it's a 501(c)(3) non-profit on Maui operating as a presenter of modern music and education events since 1999. We're very grateful for the support of the County of the arts in general. I'm quite aware of how much commitment is made. We are applauding the very exciting vision of making Maui 100 percent sustainable in renewable energy, it's a most exciting goal for all of us.

We believe that concomitantly the arts can serve to renew and stimulate our imagination simultaneously. Something that's necessary. We feel that the arts in general, and I'm not advocating for funding for Ebb & Flow Arts, I'm, I'm simply being an advocate for the arts in general. The arts stimulate creativity in a way that no other human activity does. It's creativity for its own sake. And creativity is the healthiest human process.

So we need to further encourage the arts on Maui with more County support. I'm talking about, for example, filling a void that has developed at the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and Arts where the biennium grants program is nearly moribund. We know there's an Office of Culture and Arts on Maui, we believe that the, there could be more stimulation of the arts through that office.

The arts are crucial for education. I hear STEM, STEM, STEM, we need STEAM, STEAM, STEAM. And if we are to be renewable for the future, if Costa Rica can do it, so Maui can do it. Maui also is a hub, so we find that our Ebb & Flow Arts is a center, internationally. For example, I was recently in Mexico at a new music festival. In the program is a letter from the Mayor, greeting the people of Jalapa, Mexico. What a wonderful gesture we can make to the rest of world through our activities.

We are producing now, through Maui Institute, I wasn't electrically shocked at that point, by the way. We're producing, Maui Institute for Modern Music label of CD's so we just issued this one for example. This is representing wonderful performers from all over the country who do our modern music.

And in addition, I have a letter here from the third grade teacher chair of Kihei Elementary School indicating that math scores went up 20 percent with students who had taken our scaling Haleakala course for reading and writing and music. So on all fronts we urge the Council to continue their wonderful support of the arts, but reinvigorate it in conjunction with this new wonderful vision of a self-sustaining Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Pollock.

Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Autumn Ness. She will be followed by Tom Croly.

MS. AUTUMN NESS:

Aloha, Council. My name is Autumn Ness and if you wouldn't mind having a look at some of the papers that are in there as I speak, that would be helpful. I'm here to comment on the \$50,000 line item in the budget for the GMO study.

First, I'd like to just say that I really appreciate that there is a conversation about having a study at all because really that's what the people of Maui want.

I have some concerns about this particular study though that I want to share with you. First, on the third page, this is Peter Adler's profile. He has a Ph.D. in social science. He is not a scientist. His profile describes him as a mediator, a resolver of conflict.

Accord, the company that's going to be doing this very clearly states that there will be no collection of any new data. But that they will be use existing data and research to deliberate and interpret facts around this topic.

This is problematic for a few reasons. I'm sure you all are familiar, the reason we want a study at all about what's happening in Hawaii by these chemical companies is because what's going on here is very different than regular GMO farming on the mainland. They are testing things in amounts, in combinations that aren't used anywhere else. There is no existing data that can aid in a study about the, their operations' safety here. These companies will tell you that they are just farming, and not conducting experiments, but that's simply not true.

If you turn the page, this is from the Information Systems of Biotechnology. This is a list of the open air GMO crop test permits issued to these companies in Hawaii, just for the past few months. It goes on and on and on. You can go to this site and click on each permit for more information about what's happening on those fields.

I have two permits here as an example, if you flip two pages back. In this one permit, Monsanto was issued a permit to test the tolerance of Glyphosate, 2 4-D, and Dicamba, on 640 acres of soy bean. They are testing tolerance, that means how

much can we spray all three of these chemicals on 640 acres of soy bean before that soy bean dies. That doesn't happen anywhere else. It simply doesn't happen anywhere else.

So the data about how that activity affects the neighboring community also doesn't exist. That's why we need a real, science based, data collecting environmental impact study done here, not a mediation.

The other reason this study, as proposed, is problematic is because these companies are well-known and documented, time and again, for falsifying data and pressuring organizations to publish findings in their favor.

There are hundreds of examples, but most recently as we speak, just a few weeks ago, the World Health Organization published findings after an extensive study that the main ingredient (glyphosate) in Monsanto's Roundup likely causes cancer. In typical Monsanto style, the way they address the claim is by attacking the WHO and pressuring them to withdraw the study.

May I please have one more minute. I'm almost finished.

CHAIR WHITE: Yeah, I think you have a little less than a minute.

MS. NESS: Okay, in numerous dioxin contamination cases, Monsanto was caught, this is documented, they, they were falsifying information and submitting false samples to the government for analysis, which had been specifically prepared so that dioxin contamination did not exist in those samples.

We want a study done. But as representatives of, of Maui, of the people, I'm asking that you are diligent in making sure that that study brings up real facts about what's happening here, with undue, without undue pressure from these corporations who stand to profit from the results.

And on the last page, not on the last page, the second page of my testimony right here, there is a summary statement that all of us are asking that the Council either strike the \$50,000 line item--

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Four minutes.

MS. NESS: --not participate in the study, and find a way to do an EIS in the near future, or that you amend that line item and call it an independent, an Environmental Impact Study, and maybe ask Monsanto and Dow to match funds so there's a \$100,000 for a Maui specific EIS to be done.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, thank you very much.

Members, any questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Chair.

CHAIR WHITE: Ms. Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Ms. Ness, thank you for being here. You call, I know, you got the information in our budget narratives and the public information, calling it a study but do you, did you hear that it's actually a fact-finding project and, is that, are you aware of that, did you, I think, did you mention that.

MS. NESS: Yeah, that's, that's one of the fears basically the fact finding. Fact finding project not a study and frankly, you know, given the track record of these two companies and, you know the history of their affecting data in studies, I really think it's almost dangerous to participate in this study at all. Because without the, without any new data being collected, these guys have a lot of pressure and they pressure organization, they're pressuring the double, the World Health Organization right now to withdraw their huge years and years long study about glyphosate. These guys don't, they don't want any study that they're involved in to come out with anything negative about them. So, if we, if we as a County--

CHAIR WHITE: I, I have to ask you to answer the question instead of--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: And--

CHAIR WHITE: --so ask another question.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay, and so I mean, I think you're saying good to be participating in such an effort but to focus it on, you know, not just participate but also on the side you also want that EIS that's going to sort of track the existing operations that are occurring because this isn't new, that's what we're trying to figure out.

MS. NESS: Yeah, kind of.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Fact finding is only going to bring up existing.

MS. NESS: I'm saying--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: No, no--

MS. NESS: --not both. I'm saying it's actually dangerous to participate in this study that we don't have any control over. Any study that we don't really carefully protect the integrity of the data that's coming through from the very beginning is dangerous because if they come, if this fact finding group is pressured by these two companies to come up with a finding that there is no harm being done, then that can actually be used against us in any future attempts County or State level to regulate these companies ever. So, I'm saying I don't think it's a good idea to participate at all and to withdraw and make our own EIS to participate in.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Ms. Ness for your time.

Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, thank you. Any other questions, Member? Seeing none, thank you for being here tonight.

MS. NESS: Thank you, I appreciate it. There's my phone number on the bottom if you have any questions.

CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Tom Croly. He will be followed by Kasey David.

MR. TOM CROLY:

Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Council. I'm Tom Croly and I'm testifying on my own behalf. Mahalo for all the effort that you guys put in taking care of the budget.

As you're all well aware, I come here every, every year to try to make the point that our real property tax rates and our assessment policies are both unfair and an unsustainable taxation model. As you know from my many testimonies, I'm always willing to pay my share of taxes and I'm not here to complain in any way, shape, or form about what I pay.

However, what I am concerned about is the obscene disparity between what the taxation that's assessed to homeowners is versus the taxation that's assessed to properties in our visitor industry. As I told you last year, in the ten years that I owned my vacation rental condo, I paid \$35,000 in property taxes.

My neighbor next door to me with the condo with the same assessed value paid \$5,600 during the same period, 35,000 - 5,600. My neighbor next door was here every day of the year and was using the roads and using the parks and so forth.

My guests were there about 60 percent of the time. So, I, I, ask you whether that's fair.

There was an excellent report that you got from the Real Property Tax Department on Monday, and it made the point that the largest tax base of Maui is not it's residents, it's not it's hotels, it's not it's commercial businesses, and it's not it's agricultural properties. The primary funding source for Maui County are the 10,697 condominium unit owners who use their properties in short-term rental and the 2,485 timeshare units that are out there. Between the two of these classes, that makes up \$92 million of our property tax base.

By comparison the hotels, the real hotels alone, not the, the condos that are in the same class, pay approximately \$18 million. The agricultural properties, and that's the largest land area on Maui, pay about \$19 million. The homeowners, which is the largest number of, of parcels and the highest value of any class pay about \$25 million. Commercial and industrial properties together pay about \$31 million. And apartments and condominium, apartments and, and residential pay \$70 million.

This report also made an excellent analysis about the subsidies provided by Maui County to various taxpayers totaling \$90 million. Twenty million of that went to the agricultural groups and 55 million went to homeowners. It's a policy decision for you guys to decide whether those subsidies are well placed and I expect you to do that sometime outside of budget.

But I made the assessment that our taxes are, are not sustainable. I, I quickly want to make that point. Maui's population and our residents are going to grow by 25 percent over the next 20 years. In order to sustain the current model that we have, the taxation from those condo units is going to have to increase by 50 percent.

So the time for the excessively low homeowner tax rates really has to end and you need to move this trend in another direction. Right now, homeowners are paying 25 percent less tax than they paid 15 years ago on a inflation adjusted basis. Twenty-five percent less, where all the other classes are paying two or three times more. We're just on the wrong path and I ask you to think about that in budget and how we're going to change the direction that we're on with respect to our taxation.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Four minutes.

MR. CROLY: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Croly. Members, any questions for the testifier?

MR. CROLY: Thank you.



CHAIR WHITE: Seeing none, thank you for being here, Tom.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Kasey David. She will be followed by Keith Imada.

MS. KASEY DAVID:

Hello, and good evening, Council Chairman and Councilmembers. My name is Kasey David, I'm a sophomore and I am currently a student at Maui High taking part in the school's STEM-Works Program, which is also what I'll be representing as well. Being within the STEM-Works Program for about four years now and I can tell you that what's great about being in the STEM-Works Program is that the events, memories, skills, and opportunities that are offered are basically endless and unforgettable.

I first started taking part in this amazing program in the seventh grade while at Maui Waena. I'd been at many events hosted by MEDB such as the STEM Conference. There students are able to expand their knowledge on technologies and new ways of learning that's used out in the big world.

At STEM you are capable of talking to people from big industries, gain knowledge from teachers and mentors from different islands and also from the mainland. I'm so thankful for these opportunities, both minor and major because without it, I wouldn't have been able to expand my leadership and communications skills.

This helps my future because I plan to go to Full Sail University after graduating and major in film. Upon pursuing my future career, I'm able to use this knowledge and experience that's been provided. I want to leave an impact within the world the way the STEM-Works Program has left an impact on me. This can't be possible without not only the help from this program, from my teachers and peers, but also from the help of MEDB.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank you Councilmembers for listening and for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Ms. David.

Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you so much for being here this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Keith Imada. He will be followed by Dave Jorgensen.

MR. KEITH IMADA:

Good evening, Councilmembers and Council Chair. I'm a teacher at Maui High School, I teach Science and the STEM Program at Maui High School, the STEM-Works Program, which MEDB supports. I also do the Robotics Program, I'm one of the coaches.

First of all I wanted to thank the County for their support of MEDB, because it's a very important program for us and it's not just for the students interested in STEM, I think it helps all students in, at Maui High School. And even those who are somehow related to our program, whether it's through my courses or through our media program and graphics, or our auto program, I think it supports all students at all levels.

I know, it, I always have a chance, I guess, I was going to say and I'm going to go off what I wrote but I was just thinking back there that sometime I woke up and I realized I've been teaching now for twenty some odd years and I've been doing this, the STEM Program for about 15 years now. And, I've had a chance to actually meet a lot of student who have come back, who are now in the fields of engineering, some in education, in others, in the STEM areas and it's been actually quite rewarding to find and see that, and see the impact that it had and to see, you know, what we were able to do together.

And the students themselves, and even the students who are in colleges now come back and tell me that the importance of what they were able to learn and some of the technologies that we have. And I think that's kind of important. I know I was listening to someone earlier talk about STEAM, and that's very true, I think, when I think about it, I think about it, technology in general. It could be media, it could be science, you know, it could be anything, the internet, whatever it may be.

But I think also, throughout all these years, what I've learned is that nothing is static. And that's what makes the support for MEDB so important for our students. It helps our programs stay current, keeps the kids on the cutting edge and as you know, technology keeps changing.

I keep getting a new cellphone, and I keep having to learn how to use it, and there's always new things on it. And in a way as a teacher, I find that that's always what's happening. You know, every so many years, there's always something that is coming out. I talk to the students about how I began playing Pong, you know, and I grew up with Star Wars.

But I think about now how what we're doing in our classes, we turn out in, you know, an hour, two hours and what it took those people years to make. So I think it's, you know, I think the idea is that we're always progressing and that the funding, I think helps Maui County and it's vital for Maui County. We, we also hear other issues that have come up. And we would like our students to be great citizens, to also be able to understand these issues and to also be able to help the community.

So anyway, thank you very much for listening and thank you for all your support of MEDB.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Mr. Imada. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Dave Jorgensen. He will be followed by Michael Pickett.

MR. DAVE JORGENSEN:

Aloha, Chairman White, Councilmembers and staff. My name is Dave Jorgensen. I want to touch on a couple things and I'll try and be brief in all of them.

First I'm appearing today on behalf of the American Resort Development Association, basically the timeshare industry on Maui. I very much appreciated Mr. Croly's statistics. In prior years, we've submitted testimony written and otherwise with a lot of the numbers. Basically, I, I first want to say we're grateful that the Mayor's proposed budget doesn't increase the tax rates. But, due to the increased assessments, the, the actual amounts of taxes that people are going to have to pay go up and there is still an enormous disparity between the tax rate applicable to timeshares and all other classes. And I think Mr. Croly's testimony made that very clear.

So we do ask, you know, we know money is tight, and there is a lot of programs that need to be paid for. And, there's very much need for money, but we do ask that the Council look at trying to reduce the disparity between the tax rates.

On a second topic, more as an individual, I would request that the effort to allow privatization of some of the parks in the County be looked at again. I know Vice-Chair Guzman had been working on that. I'm not quite sure where it's at now, but, you know, that is a way to have the park users actually take a sense of pride and ownership in some of the parks to help maintain them in a condition better than they

are now at reduced or no cost at all to the County. So I would ask that that be looked into.

And then finally, just as, as a member of the community and an individual, and somebody involved with the Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation, I ask for all your support in contacting the Governor and asking him to support House Bill 1075, which would help allow a public/private partnership for the medical center.

If, you know, there's a lot of people that think it's a bluff or a scare tactics about the hospital reducing services or even closing. And I can tell you that's, it's not a bluff, very serious stuff that has to happen. So I do ask everybody actually in this room if you can contact your legislators, but especially the Governor and ask for him to support the bill so we can get that passed. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Mr. Jorgensen. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here this evening.

MR. JORGENSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Michael Pickett. He will be followed by Curtis Tom.

MR. MICHAEL PICKETT:

Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council. Thank you for having us here. I wanted to speak in support of the MEDB. I am past Vice-President and Chief Information Officer at Brown University, retired here a couple of years ago when my son and his wife moved here. And, I spent about 24 years before that at Duke University and Duke University Medical Systems doing information technology.

One of the things, some of our previous testifiers have spoken about is the impact of change. And we've all struggled with our new telephones. We've all struggled with trying to make those VCR's stop blinking . . .

The thing that I wanted to note is that that's what the Economic Development Board is about. It's about nurturing change. It's about attracting people and businesses that can react to the changes that occur around the world.

I said as earlier, I came from Rhode Island before this and worked quite a bit with their Economic Development Commission at the request of the Governor, especially in the area of super computing and high, high performance networking. And the thing that I see is that different states, different regions, different areas, have different

problems, and Maui is extremely challenged in terms of how do we get resources here. It cost a lot of money.

Well, one of the things that we are blessed with because of some support of the Maui Economic Development Board is high performance computing and high performance networking. We don't have to pay much to move those pieces of information around the world.

My son runs a business, electronic computing consultant, and he has clients in India and works with people all over the world from his house. Simply because we have this infrastructure that we've been able to get through some of our collaborative works with other groups.

The Economic Development Board is able to facilitate this. It's not able to make it happen, but it's much like fertilizer that you place on seeds. It allows things to, to grow, it gives it a better chance. And I think that's something that I would, I would urge you to provide continued support for. It's the type of thing that, in, in times of change, we have to have.

I saw Rhode Island go through, suffer through tremendous property tax and business tax increases as their manufacturing infrastructure dropped and it changed their whole business model. Who knows what climate change will do to us? Who knows what GMO's may do to us? There's a lot of things, who knows what change will occur. But groups like the Economic Development Board, gives us a diversity and a sustainability that allows us to be more resilient in the face of those changes. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts with us tonight, Mr. Pickett.

Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thanks for being here.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Curtis Tom. He will be followed by AJ Ramelb.

MR. CURTIS TOM:

Council Chair, Councilmembers. I'd like to thank, I'm testifying on behalf of MEDB, I'm a Board Member. But I'm a new Board Member, just came on the Board this year. But I'm very familiar with the MEDB programs. My children have been involved in STEM Programs at Maui Waena Intermediate School as well as Pomaikai Elementary School. And also through my work, it takes me around the County to

different islands and I talk to my peers on the islands about their programs on Molokai and Lanai.

So MEDB is doing terrific work in our community. When my children first thought about getting into different programs, I didn't know what Robotics or math was, you know, in terms of competitions. But I attended those competitions and I saw how they grew. Some of the children that, I shouldn't say children, some of the students who testified earlier were mentors to my children as they were going to school. And I've seen how much they've grown.

And when I talk to their parents who are, some of them are my co-workers or, they don't, some of them have not had a college education and here their children are looking to go to college, attend engineering classes, come back and help in the community. And I see how much MEDB is contributing towards the path of future employment and development of our community here.

When we talk about how the money is spent in terms of, you know, \$5,000 for expenses, that's nothing compared to what the children and the families look to raise whenever they compete for these events. And when they compete, they're competing against the best in the world. We have some of the best students not only in the State of Hawaii, but some of the best students in the world.

I can tell you that probably the greatest thing that in my son's life was when he was in the sixth grade and he was participating in Robotics and they went and participated in a tournament called Botball. And this is where everything is a level playing field. Every, all the schools get the same parts, and it's all down to execution and programming.

And they came within one one-hundredths of a point of defeating a private school called Hanalani over on Oahu. Hanalani was the three time defending world champion. Unfortunately, Maui Waena couldn't participate in the World Championships that year, but Hanalani went on to win the World Championships in Oklahoma City. So we have some of the best students and I know that with your continued support will continue to grow this economy. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Mr. Tom. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you for your story, appreciate it.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is AJ Ramelb. He will be followed by Michelle Famorca.

MR. AJ RAMELB:

Good evening, Council and Chair. My name is AJ Ramelb and I will be speaking on behalf of MEDB. I am a graduate of King Kekaulike High School and I spent two years in the STEM-Works Program. The experiences that I fostered there really helped me to figure out what I want to do with myself after high school and what I want to do in life. It's a very important class and I preach it to every student I see now a days.

In my senior year, I created a prosthetic grip that allows students to, students with disabilities to paint and hold paint brushes. And, after submitting an application for an award, I ended up winning a \$10,000 scholarship through STEM-Works, with the help of MEDB. And, with winning the award, I was told that I would be receiving a patent for my design with the help of MEDB. And so, today I was asked to testify to kind of ask for your continued support of the STEM-Works Program and thank you, thank you for your time and thank you for listening.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much for coming this evening. Members, any questions for the testifier?

Mr. Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No, no question, I have something, recess please.

CHAIR WHITE: Let me get this done first. Thank you very much for coming this evening. And Members, we are going to take a quick recess because we had scheduled our, our Budget Committee for 7:00. So we'll recess this meeting.

(THE MEETING WAS RECESSED BY THE CHAIR AT 6:58 P.M., AND WAS RECONVENED AT 6:58 P.M., WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT MEMBER HOKAMA, EXCUSED.)

CHAIR WHITE: Back into our Council meeting, our Council public hearing. Thank you, Mr. Clerk, let's proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Chair.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Michelle Famorca. She will be followed by Jenver Aguinaldo.

MS. MICHELLE FAMORCA:

Aloha, Chair and County Councilmembers. My name is Michelle Famorca and I'm a junior at Maui High School and I'm a member of the Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Program at Maui High School.

AOHT is a great program to participate in. The hospitality and tourist industry is the driving force in Hawaii. It is the number one industry in Hawaii and everything revolves around it. The mission of AOHT is to prepare us two ways in the future 1) is to be prepared to enter the workforce; and 2) to prepare us for post-secondary education.

We receive a lot of hands on experiences within the industry that help us decide which career we'd like to pursue in the future such as career shadowing at Wailea Marriott to oversee different responsibilities each department of the hotel has. I realized after shadowing in the sales and events department that I want to pursue a career in event planning. Next year I am taking directed studies which does the planning of many events.

Other activities that we do are service projects within the industry including highway cleanups with the Wailea Marriott, Grand Wailea Keiki Christmas Party, and Easter Extravaganza, and the Visitor Industry Charity Walk. We also do on-island FAM trips to be familiar with the activities on the island and the Oahu FAM trip by putting together a trip like a travel agent by doing research.

The County should keep funding the AOHT Program to complete our goal, which is to become college and career ready. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Ms. Famorca. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for coming this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Jenver Aguinaldo. He will be followed by Maria Faith Agtaguem.

MR. JENVER AGUINALDO:

Aloha and good evening, Chair and County Councilmembers. My name is Jenver Aguinaldo and I am also a current junior at Maui High School and an active member of the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Program at Maui High School.



The AOHT is really important for not only us, but also for the future of our County and our State. AOHT is not an ordinary business class. It branches out to many pathways and opportunities in the business industry. Because of living in Hawaii, it is important, important to also branch out culturally. I believe it is important for travel professionals to know the host culture and impart this knowledge to our visitors as they come here not only for our beaches, but because of our local people and our culture.

AOHT is important to us, the newer generation, because the hospitality and tourism industry is the main base of our economy. It is important to perceive that without it, we would have a weak and an unstable economy.

Yesterday I had the privilege of career shadowing at the Wailea Marriott Resort and Spa. I was placed in two of the many major departments, first I was placed in the Culinary Department. We met up with the Head Chef of Food and Beverage, then introduced to the cooks. My experience with them was great. They were very encouraging and patient. I was taught many different ways and techniques to cook and also professionally create a presentable table.

After culinary I was relocated to the Sales and Events Department. I met the Sales and Events Manager . . . She jotted down what her job was, networking with other corporations and building relations in order to bring business to our property, her property. She broke down my interests and personality traits to help me find the jobs that would best suit me in this industry. She also gave me suggestions of classes I may want to take in college.

You see, hospitality is key to the success of this industry. We want to make our tourist feel welcome so that they return. I was able to not only learn this important fact, but experience it as well through the AOHT Program. Thank you so much for your continued support of the AOHT Program here on Maui. And on behalf of Maui High AOHT, the funding received is really appreciated. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Aguinaldo. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, appreciate your coming this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Maria Faith Agtaguem. She will be followed by Lori Sanada.

MS. MARIA FAITH AGTAGUEM:

Aloha, Chair Mike White, and Council City Members. My name is Maria Faith Agtaguem and I am currently a junior at Maui High School and I am the Junior Vice-President of the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Program.

The AOHT is a great program to prepare us for our future whether we decide to go directly into the workforce or go to college. The hospitality and tourism are the biggest and growing fastest, fastest growing industries in Hawaii and generates a lot of revenue from the visitors. The money made trickles down and affects every aspect of our lives.

For example, a visitor needs several components of the industry for a successful trip. He or she would need transportation, accommodation, food and beverage, and entertainment. And all of these components are related to hospitality. One way or another, they all connect with each other into making a satisfying trip.

The industry provides numerous career opportunities and my future goal is to become a flight attendant, part of the air transportation. And as a junior in high school, I have to prepare myself for what the real world has to offer. Being in AOHT has helped me understand the prospects of not only this component as well as the others.

We are a new generation who will someday be in charge of this industry. Maui is a perfect place to pursue a career in hospitality and tourism as it was voted No. 1 Island in the U.S. and second in the world. And in the past it has won No. 1 in the World by the Condé Nast for several years.

I hope this simple message of mine will encourage each and every one of the Councilmembers to keep continuing to support the AOHT here on Maui. We the students of AOHT really appreciate the funding received. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you so much, Maria. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, actually I have a comment. No that's okay.

You mentioned that at some point you all will be in charge of this industry. I want you to know that when I was your age in Honolulu, all the managers and most of the mid-managers weren't from Hawaii. They were from Europe and all kinds of different places. So that's changed a lot. So, what you, what you said is very much a possibility. So keep at it. Thank you. Thank you for coming tonight.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Lori Sanada. She will be followed by Janice Tsubota.

MS. LORI SANADA, MAUI HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM:

Aloha, Chairman Mike White, and County Councilmembers. My name is Lori Sanada, and the Maui High School AOHT Director.

I am speaking on behalf of the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism here on Maui High School. I started this program twenty odd years ago, I'm showing my age, because I wanted to provide my student, my students opportunities that I felt I did not have when I was in high school as well as the university level.

My major is Business Administration, I have a minor in Japanese. When I came out with my four year degree, I turned around and thought to myself what am I going to do. As a result, I went back to finish my teaching degree and when I went to Maui High School I was given the travel class to teach. I researched and I found the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism.

Thank you Mike White for your vision, for starting it at Lahainaluna. My Uncle Bruno Ariyoshi was the Principal, and being my Uncle, he encouraged me to research it. So I went to training in Chicago and I was so thrilled and, I guess passionate about starting an AOHT at Maui High School as well.

I wanted to provide my students opportunity, opportunities such as real life hands on experiences. I wanted them to be able to career shadow in the hotels or other aspects. I wanted them to find jobs, paying jobs, unpaying jobs. I wanted them to be able to network with business partners. I wanted them to have on-island experiences, off-island experiences.

And as a result, I felt, I, they are benefiting because I didn't have these experiences. And from being in, in this program for 20 years, now I can see the fruits of my labor because I am seeing my former graduates as managers in hotels and at TSA.

For example, I took my students to, last week actually, to a State, it's called a State Career Technical Education Performance Based Assessment on Oahu and I was mandated to attend a teacher workshop. One of the presenters there, not the presenter, but the assistant was my former student. And it's a thrill to see my students being CEO's, CFO's, managers, housekeeping, Hualalai, Seattle, you know, all over the place. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for sharing, Lori. That's great. Any questions, for Lori this evening. Seeing none, thank you again.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Next person to testify is Janice Tsubota. She will be followed by Rita Ryan.

MS. JANICE TSUBOTA:

Chairman, Councilmembers. I'm Janice Tsubota, representing myself and other low-income or fixed-income homeowners, particularly condo owners in South Maui. First of all I would like to congratulate Chairman Mike White in his position as Council Chair, you have earned and deserve this position and I'm very happy that we have such a qualified person chairing the Council.

I want to thank you and the other Councilmembers for working so hard last year to trim down expenditures so as not to increase our real property taxes. You have done a great service by listening to the needs of our community so as not to increase our tax burden.

This year the Mayor has again proposed an increase in the County Budget to the tune of 16 percent. To do this he wants to increase the, our water fees, sewage fees, trash collection fees, fuel taxes, and vehicle weight tax. Many of us are struggling to pay our bills and any increase in our fees is an additional hardship. For us condo owners, increased water fees, sewage fees and trash collection fees will all mean increased condo fees. And already I have an 18 percent increase in my property assessment for next year, which means, which means I will have to pay higher property taxes.

The increase in the fuel tax, that affects all of us and it's not justifiable in my opinion since we already have the highest gas prices in the country. The increase in the vehicle weight tax, I can't imagine who would think about doing that since we're already struggling to pay the current one. I have a friend Bonnie who just paid \$400 to register her SUV. She needs the SUV to drive her four grandchildren around so that her daughter can hold a job. She's struggling, she doesn't know how she's going to pay her medical insurance since her husband doesn't have a full-time job.

So I would like to commend you also for holding the line against the Mayor's insistence on increasing the expenses for the Department of Environmental Management, Solid Waste Division. We do not need to pay for the department's mismanagement. So thank you for holding the line there.

So finally, I just want to thank you for your hard work in holding our expenses down so that you can balance the budget without raising our taxes and fees so that we can pay our bills on this very expensive island. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Tsubota. Members, any questions for the testifier. Seeing none, thank you for coming this evening.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Next person to testify is Rita Ryan. Ms. Ryan is the last individual who has signed up to testify in the Council chamber.

MS. RITA RYAN:

Hi, thank you, Council Chair White and Councilmembers and Council staff for hearing us all tonight. I am here as a private citizen and I live up in Makawao. I'm a mother of two daughters in college and I am a semi-retired internet technologist who has returned to school to study sustainability science here at the college. Many of you may or may not be aware, we have a four year program there.

Last year, I went to the Energy Conference at the MACC because I'm very interested in energy and sustainability here and renewable energy. And very much support the Mayor's decree to have a hundred percent renewables here on Maui. And, there I met some of the members from the Maui Economic Development Board, the JumpStart Maui Project. At the time I was driving an old gas guzzler, SUV. Since then today, I'm driving a Nissan Leaf.

I've got PV panels on my roof. I'm happily providing energy back to the grid, so I'm no longer just a consumer but I'm a prosumer, actually providing energy into the grid and with the next phase of the JumpSmartMaui Project, my car will not only be my transportation vehicle, but it will also be grid, battery backup for the grid. And also my home battery backup for my home if the lights go out. And it will be able to power my home for a while.

Now as a technologist and as a student of sustainability science, I'm really interested in Maui Economic Development Board's commitment to growing economically these kinds of programs and the kind of opportunities that come with it. There are many students in the program who are first time students I'm, I'm a second time student. But they are looking for opportunities in sustainability science here on Maui.

I'm interested in bringing my children back to Maui after college and to give them the kinds of economic opportunities that they would have on the mainland. So, we don't want Maui to ever become the land that time forgot. We want to stay current and in the future, a leader in renewable energy.

And MEDB with the JumpSmartMaui Program has allowed me as a common citizen to participate very actively in renewable energy on Maui and has given me and other people like me the opportunity to do that. So I urge you all to continue to support MEDB and the many programs, the STEM Programs as well as the JumpSmartMaui Program that they are involved with. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Ms. Ryan. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for sharing your thoughts this evening.

MS. RYAN: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Clerk, do we have any further testifiers?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there are no further individuals signed up to testify in the Council chamber.

If there are any additional individuals in the Council chamber or at the District Offices who would like to offer testimony, please identify yourself to the appropriate staff and proceed to the testimony lectern or District Office phone at this time.

Hana Office, are there any additional testifiers?

MS. LONO: There is no one waiting to testify at the Hana Office.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Lanai Office, are there any additional testifiers?

MS. FERNANDEZ: There is no one waiting to testify at the Lanai Office.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Molokai Office, are there any additional testifiers?

MS. ALCON: There is no one here on Molokai waiting to testify.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Mr. Chair, there are no other individuals in the District Offices nor the chamber who wish to offer testimony.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk

Have we received written testimony?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, we have received written testimony.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Members, without objection we'll have the written testimony put into the record.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, WRITTEN TESTIMONY RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE MADE A PART OF THE RECORD OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Autumn Ness;
2. Mary L. Spencer; and
3. Ed Aloï.

CHAIR WHITE: So ordered.

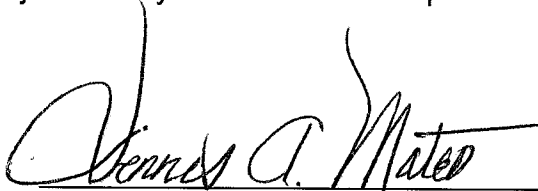
Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there is no further business.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, with that Members, we'll adjourn this public hearing. We are adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of *APRIL 23, 2015*, was adjourned by the Chair at 7:17 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Mateo", is written over a horizontal line.

DENNIS A. MATEO, COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII